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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Eleventh meeting**

Geneva, 3–6 September 2018

Item 3 (a) (ii) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the work programme of the
Open-ended Working Group for 2018–2019:
strategic issues: development of guidelines for
environmentally sound management**

**Development of guidelines for environmentally sound
management**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraphs 9 and 10 of its decision BC-13/2, on the follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, the Conference of the Parties extended the mandate of the expert working group on environmentally sound management, adopted the work programme of the group set out in annex I to that decision and requested it to develop activities, subject to the availability of resources, to implement its work programme.
2. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the draft practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management prepared by the expert working group¹ and invited Parties and others to submit comments thereon to the Secretariat by 30 November 2017.
3. In paragraph 15 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties set out a process through which draft documents developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management would be submitted for comment to Parties and other stakeholders and for consultation, where appropriate, with the Open-ended Working Group and the Implementation and Compliance Committee before being submitted to the Conference of the Parties for adoption and requested the Secretariat to make such draft documents available on the Convention website along with any comments received.
4. Furthermore, in paragraph 16 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the expert working group to report to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the activities it had undertaken in accordance with its work programme.

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/1.

¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/8.

II. Implementation

5. Thanks to generous financial support provided by the Governments of Germany and Japan, the expert working group held its seventh meeting in Accra from 13 to 15 November 2017.²
6. The expert working group made progress on the activities in its work programme on the development of a toolkit for environmentally sound management, or "ESM Toolkit". It commenced development of new tools, including a practical manual for stakeholders to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements meet environmentally sound management requirements (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/4); guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for the recycling and recovery of hazardous and other wastes (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/5); and guidance on how to address environmentally sound management in the informal sector (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/6). The group also revised the draft practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management on the basis of comments received from Parties and others pursuant to decision BC-13/2³ (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/7).
7. In response to paragraph 15 of decision BC-13/2, the expert working group plans to submit the above-mentioned documents for comment to Parties and other stakeholders, including the Implementation and Compliance Committee, as appropriate, prior to the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The comments received thereon before the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group will be made available on the website of the Convention.⁴
8. A more detailed report of the activities undertaken by the expert working group in accordance with its work programme is set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/8.

III. Proposed action

9. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Open-ended Working Group

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the expert working group on environmentally sound management and takes note of the report on the activities undertaken by the group;⁵
2. *Welcomes* the draft practical manual for stakeholders to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements meet environmentally sound management requirements;⁶ the draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for the recycling and recovery of hazardous and other wastes;⁷ the draft guidance on how to address environmentally sound management in the informal sector;⁸ and the revised draft practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management;⁹
3. *Requests* the expert working group on environmentally sound management to revise the documents referred to in paragraph 2 above by 31 October 2018, taking into account the comments from Parties and other stakeholders received prior to,¹⁰ and discussions during, the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

² <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/Meetings/EWG7onESM/Overview/tabid/6118/Default.aspx>.

³ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Overview/tabid/5839/Default.aspx>.

⁴ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Overview/tabid/5839/Default.aspx>.

⁵ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/8.

⁶ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/4.

⁷ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/5.

⁸ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/6.

⁹ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/7.

¹⁰ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Overview/tabid/5839/Default.aspx>.